

JUDICIARY

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	FY 2001 EXPENDITURE	FY 2002 APPROPRIATION	FY 2003 REQUEST	GOVERNOR RECOMMENDS FY 2003
Supreme Court	\$ 4,511,015	\$ 4,591,057	\$ 5,302,061	\$ 4,658,059
Office of State Courts Administrator	29,248,988	33,597,957	40,274,256	35,049,325
Courts of Appeal	10,016,020	10,274,816	11,408,039	10,481,317
Circuit Courts	107,256,733	112,699,323	121,962,510	113,134,684
Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline of Judges	183,929	232,605	235,013	232,605
Appellate Judicial Commission	5,299	11,960	11,960	11,960
Senior Judge Compensation	641,667	643,673	643,673	643,673
TOTAL	\$ 151,863,651	\$ 162,051,391 *	\$ 179,837,512	\$ 164,211,623
General Revenue Fund	143,690,464	144,150,056	158,292,896	142,787,667
Federal Funds	5,217,333	12,165,612	15,541,440	15,488,232
Third Party Liability Collection Fund	0	345,869	355,109	345,869
Child Support Collections Fund				
Statewide Court Automation Fund	2,873,858	4,694,854	4,753,066	4,694,854
Supreme Court Publications Revolving Fund	72,279	80,000	80,000	80,000
Missouri CASA Fund	0	0	200,000	200,000
Drug Court Resources Fund	0	0	1	1
Supreme Court Administrative Revolving Fund	7,751	90,000	90,000	90,000
Domestic Relations Resolution Fund	1,966	500,000	500,000	500,000
Fine Collections Center				
Interest Revolving Fund	0	25,000	25,000	25,000
Full-time equivalent employees	3,467.10	3,411.10	3,630.27	3,422.60

* Does not include \$2,495,590 recommended in Fiscal Year 2002 Supplemental Appropriations. See the Supplemental section of the Missouri Budget for details regarding Judiciary supplemental appropriations.

POLICY SUMMARY

The Governor recommends \$166,859,451 to enable the Judiciary to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities.

CHILDREN IN THE COURTS: Many at risk children find themselves unguided participants in a judicial system ill suited to handle their needs. Abused and neglected children are often placed in the judicial system for the purpose of permanent placement in a safe and healthy home. However, judges frequently lack the information required to act in the best interests of the child. Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs provide community volunteers to escort children throughout the entire legal placement process. These advocates see that the needs of the children are properly assessed and met. Volunteers conduct thorough research on the background of cases, review documents, interview parties and report to the court with recommendations based on the best interests of the child. Through these efforts, judges are provided information essential for the appropriate placement of abused children. To promote the timely and proper disposition of cases involving children, the Governor recommends:

- \$200,000 federal funds for new and existing CASA programs for recruitment, training and supervision of additional CASA volunteers.
- \$3,100,248 federal funds for the purpose reimbursing program costs related to adoption, foster care and children at-risk of removal from the home.
- \$192,000 and two staff for family court commissioners in St. Charles and Greene Counties in funds to be reimbursed by the counties.

COURT AUTOMATION: Technological improvements often lead to increased efficiencies and accessibility in government. Faced with ever more crowded dockets and reporting demands, a commitment to technological innovation must be fundamental in the Missouri judicial system. The on going implementation of the Electronic Courts Project 2004 as authorized in SB 420 (1994) is resulting in a more efficient and accessible Missouri court system. At the end of Fiscal Year 2002, this project will serve approximately 50% of Missouri's caseload and 54% of Missouri's population. To continue this innovative use of information technology, the Governor recommends:

- \$15,447,176 for on going support of implemented court automation, including \$10,752,322 general revenue.
- \$222,372 federal funds for the continuing implementation of automation in Missouri's juvenile courts.

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POLICY SUMMARY (Continued)

COURT SECURITY: The events of September 11th have necessitated an evaluation of public buildings security issues statewide. To ensure the safety and security of the Missouri judicial system, the Governor recommends:

- \$59,904 for security measures at the Supreme Court Building.
- \$216,001 for security measures in the Western, Eastern, and Southern Courts of Appeals.

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court hears appeals in several categories of legal cases, handles original proceedings concerning extraordinary remedies, and exercises control over courts. The court discharges these duties by hearing oral arguments and interpreting and applying pertinent laws in order to decide cases on appeal. Lower courts are supervised through the promulgation and revision of rules. The court also licenses and disciplines attorneys of the state bar.

Fiscal Year 2003 Governor's Recommendations

- \$59,904 for increased security measures at the Supreme Court Building.
- \$7,098 for increased dues for the National Center for State Courts.

OFFICE OF STATE COURTS ADMINISTRATOR

The Office of State Courts Administrator fulfills the administrative obligations of the Supreme Court which are mandated under the judicial article and the statutes. Staff of the office perform technical assistance, statistical analysis, financial system analysis, and continuing education functions for the courts. The office assists in policy direction for the Statewide Judicial Information System (SWJIS), collects and analyzes caseload data from the courts, develops and operates appellate and circuit record-keeping systems, develops and operates administrative systems, prepares the judicial budget, and maintains the personnel system for the courts. A central transcribing service prepares typed transcripts from sound recordings when needed for appeals or other purposes as required by statute. The office processes payrolls for all state-paid circuit court employees and all other state expenditures of the Supreme Court and circuit courts.

Fiscal Year 2003 Governor's Recommendations

- \$3,100,248 federal funds and four staff for expenditures related to adoption, foster care, and removal of at-risk children from dangerous homes.
- \$222,372 federal funds and five staff to continue automation of Missouri's juvenile courts.
- (\$1,871,252) for one-time expenditures.

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COURTS OF APPEAL

The Missouri Courts of Appeal are constitutionally and statutorily authorized courts charged with hearing and deciding original remedial writs and appeals from all the counties in the state. The courts consist of 11 appeals judges in the Western District, 14 appeals judges in the Eastern District, and 7 appeals judges in the Southern District.

Fiscal Year 2003 Governor's Recommendations

- \$216,001 for security improvements in the Western, Eastern, and Southern Courts of Appeals.
- (\$9,500) for one-time expenditures.

	FY 2001 EXPENDITURE	FY 2002 APPROPRIATION	GOVERNOR RECOMMENDS FY 2003
Western District	\$ 3,404,243	\$ 3,432,591	\$ 3,527,142
Eastern District	4,453,318	4,491,600	4,544,100
Southern District	2,158,459	2,350,625	2,410,075
TOTAL	\$ 10,016,020	\$ 10,274,816	\$ 10,481,317
Personal Service	8,439,840	8,742,734	8,742,734
Expense and Equipment	1,576,180	1,532,082	1,738,583
TOTAL			
General Revenue Fund	\$ 10,016,020	\$ 10,274,816	\$ 10,481,317
Full-time equivalent employees	163.65	166.65	166.65

CIRCUIT COURTS

Circuit courts are established by Article V, Section 15 of the Constitution of Missouri. The boundaries, circuit number, and inclusive counties of the 45 circuits are established by Chapter 478 RSMo. The circuit court is the exclusive trial court in Missouri. It is comprised of circuit judges, associate circuit judges, and municipal judges. Municipalities under 400,000 population may, and those over 400,000 must, make provision for judges to hear municipal ordinance violations. If such provision is not made, municipalities will file such cases before an associate circuit judge.

Fiscal Year 2003 Governor's Recommendations

- \$200,000 federal funds to expand Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs serving abused and neglected children.
- \$192,000 and two staff for new family court commissioners in St. Charles and Greene Counties, the state to be reimbursed as per RSMo 487.020.
- \$30,330 and 0.5 staff for a statutorily mandated conversion of an associate circuit court judge to a circuit court judge in Cole County.
- \$13,030 for statutorily mandated circuit clerk salary adjustments in Callaway and Christian counties resulting from county reclassification.
- \$1 other funds on an open-ended basis to implement the Drug Court Coordination Commission.

JUDICIARY

COMMISSION ON RETIREMENT, REMOVAL AND DISCIPLINE OF JUDGES

The Commission on Retirement, Removal, and Discipline of Judges, authorized in Article V, Section 27 of the Missouri Constitution, receives and investigates all requests and suggestions concerning retirement for disability and all complaints concerning misconduct of judges, members of the judicial commissions, and members of this commission. The commission is composed of two citizens who are not members of the bar and who are appointed by the Governor, two lawyers appointed by the governing body of the Missouri Bar, one judge of the Courts of Appeal selected by a majority of the judges of the Courts of Appeal, and one judge of the circuit courts selected by a majority of the circuit judges of this state.

Fiscal Year 2003 Governor's Recommendations

Continue funding at the current level.

APPELLATE JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The Appellate Judicial Commission consists of a judge of the Supreme Court, one member of the bar from each appeals district, and one citizen not a member of the bar from each appeals district. The commission considers vacancies in the office of judge of the Supreme Court or the Courts of Appeal. The Circuit Judicial Commission consists of the chief judge of the Courts of Appeal over the district, two members of the bar residing in the judicial circuit, and two citizens not members of the bar residing in the circuit. This commission considers vacancies in the office of circuit judge or associate circuit judge in those districts subject to nonpartisan selection of judges.

Fiscal Year 2003 Governor's Recommendations

Continue funding at the current level.

SENIOR JUDGE COMPENSATION

Legislation enacted in 1988 encouraged the use of senior retired judges to help alleviate the problems associated with rapidly growing caseloads in the circuit and appellate courts by providing compensation for their services. Senior judges are being used to increase the disposition rates in high-volume courts, in courts where there are temporary vacancies due to retirement and illness, and in individual cases where conflict of interest or other needs arise.

Fiscal Year 2003 Governor's Recommendations

Continue funding at the current level.

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